

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 DRC-01 /082 W

----- 120502

R 140905Z NOV 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2659

INFO SECDEF

OFFICE OF PREPAREDNESS GSA WASHDC

DEPT OF INTERIOR WASHDC

S E C R E T USNATO 5467

E.O. 11652: GDS, 12/31/81

TAGS: MARR, US NATO

SUBJ: CEP: SCEPC OIL SCENARIO FOR EXERCISE HILEX-6

REF: A) MD(73)133 DATED OCTOBER 24, 1973;

B) AC/287(H-6)-WP/2(2ND REVISE), DATED OCTOBER 19, 1973

SECDEF FOR OASD I&L; INTERIOR FOR OOG

1. CHAIRMAN (DEVEGLIA) OPENED NOVEMBER 8 SCEPC MEETING BY
REFERRING TO HIS MEMORANDUM TO COMMITTEE DELEGATES (REF A) IN
WHICH HE HAD SUGGESTED THAT THE SENIOR COMMITTEE MIGHT WISH TO
REVIEW TO WHAT EXTENT OIL SHOULD PLAY A ROLE IN HILEX-6 NOW THAT RECENT

ACTIONS BY ARAB STATES HAVE
ANTICIPATED THE ORIGINAL SCENARIO. HE THEN REQUESTED COMMITTEE
APPROVAL OF A DRAFT DECISION AS FOLLOWS: QTE-AGREED THAT, IN
THE LIGHT OF DEVELOPMENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THE SETTING FOR OIL
PLAY IN EXERCISE HILEX-6 SHOULD BE SEVERELY SCALED DOWN IN ORDER
TO AVOID POSSIBLE EMBARRASSING COMPARISONS WITH THE PREVAILING
SITUATION. ACCORDINGLY, SOME BASIC ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT THE
AVAILABILITY OF OIL AND THE LEVEL OF OIL STOCKS SHOULD BE MADE,
IF REQUIRED, TO ENABLE THE MAIN EXERCISE TO CONTINUE, BUT ACTIVITY
SECRET

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RELATED TO OILSHORTAGES WILL BE KEPT TO THE MINIMUM. END QTE.

2. CANTY(CANADA), ONLY COMMITTEE MEMBER WITH SPECIFIC INSTRUCTIONS,
STATED THAT CANADA CONSIDERED OIL SCENARIO DEVELOPED FOR HILEX TOO

SENSITIVE AT THIS TIME SINCE IT CLOSELY APPROXIMATED CURRENT SITUATION. MAJORITY OF OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS, ON A PERSONAL BASIS, EXPRESSED VIEW THAT HILEX SCENARIO SHOULD INVOLVE OIL TO SOME EXTENT. IN ADDITION THEY NOTED THAT IT WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE TO ANTICIPATE THE SITUATION NEXT MARCH, WHEN HILEX-6 TAKES PLACE AND MODIFY THE SCENARIO ACCORDINGLY.

3. COMMENT: IN THE MISSION'S VIEW, THE OIL SCENARIO AS ORIGINALLY DRAFTED WOULD BEST MEET THE OBJECTIVE OF TESTING DPC ON HOW THE NATO CONSULTATION PROCESS MIGHT DEAL WITH AN OIL SHORTAGE AFFECTING THE DEFENSE POSTURE OF THE ALLIANCE. THEREFORE, USNATO RECOMMENDS US OBJECT TO DRAFT DECISION AND PUT FORWARD POSITION THAT SCENARIO SHOULD REMAIN ROUGHLY AS ORIGINALLY WRITTEN. ADVISE PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 16. RUMSFELD

SECRET

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 NOV 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: boyleja
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NATO05467
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS, 12/31/81
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731165/abqcedgs.tel
Line Count: 71
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A) MD(73)133 DATED OCTOBER 24, 1973; B) AC/287(H-6)-WP/2(2ND REVISE), DATED OCTOBER 19, 1973
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: boyleja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <21-Aug-2001 by boyleja>; APPROVED <03-Oct-2001 by boyleja>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CEP: SCEPC OIL SCENARIO FOR EXERCISE HILEX-6
TAGS: MARR, US NATO
To: STATE INFO SECDEF
OFFICE OF PREPAREDNESS GSA
DEPT OF INTERIOR
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005